



MICHIGAN
EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT
PROGRAM

HST

SPRING 2002

SCORING
GUIDE

WRITING PART TWO

SESSION 2

COMPOSING AND COMMUNICATING MEANING: EXTENDED WRITING TASK

DIRECTIONS

You will have 85 minutes in which to write a response to the extended writing topic below and to transfer your response to your ANSWER BOOKLET. Organize your time in the manner that works best for you. Do not feel you need to fill every page of your ANSWER BOOKLET.

You may use pages 8 through 13 in this booklet for notes, freewriting, outlining, clustering, or writing your rough draft, but any writing you want scored for Session 2 must start on page 9 of your ANSWER BOOKLET. Nothing written in this test booklet will be scored.

The scoring guide that will be used to score your paper is on the back page of this test booklet. You may want to review it prior to writing your response. The final copy of this paper will be scored as polished writing, so you should give careful thought to revision (rethinking ideas) and polishing (editing and proofreading).

You may use a dictionary, thesaurus, spelling book, and/or grammar book at any time. Wristwatch alarms may NOT be used during the test.

EXTENDED WRITING TOPIC

As we grow, our perspectives change. Write a paper in which you examine what it means to be mature.

You might, for example, do one of the following:

describe adult expectations that have been placed upon you

OR

compare your life now with your life as a child

OR

argue that children in our society are forced to grow up too quickly, or the opposite,
that they are not allowed to grow up quickly enough

OR

consider an experience you had that made you more mature

OR

take any of several other approaches to discussing this idea.

Your audience will be interested adult readers who may not have read your writing from Session 1.

Scoring Guide for the High School Test in Writing

Readers use these rubrics (holistic scorepoint descriptions) as guides when they score your writing.

Session 2

- 4 The writing is engaging, original, clear, and focused. Ideas and content are richly developed and supported by details and examples where appropriate. Control of organization and transitions move the reader easily through the text. The voice and tone are authentic and compelling. Control of language and skillful use of writing conventions contribute to the effect of the presentation.
- 3 The writing is generally clear, focused, and well-developed. Examples and details support ideas and content where appropriate. The presentation is generally coherent, and its organizational structure is functional. The voice, tone, diction, and sentence structure support meaning. Use of writing conventions is not distracting.
- 2 The writing has some focus and support. Ideas and content may be developed with limited details and examples. The presentation shows some evidence of structure, but it may be artificial or only partially successful. The tone may be inappropriate or the voice uneven. Sentence structure and diction are generally correct but rudimentary. Limited control of writing conventions may interfere with meaning some of the time.
- 1 The writing has little focus and development. Ideas and content are supported by few, if any, details and examples. There is little discernible shape or direction. The writing demonstrates no control over voice and tone. Faulty sentence structure and limited vocabulary interfere with understanding. Limited control of writing conventions (such as spelling, grammar/usage, capitalization, punctuation, and/or indentation) makes the writing difficult to read.

2 2 2

Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

2 2 2

I think maturity has a lot to do with responsibility. And being responsible for what you do. I also think honesty has a lot to do with maturity. I think people that lie are trying to get away from responsibility, and consequence for what ever they're trying to lie their way out of. Also excepting things the way they are without complain but taking action to change ~~things~~ those things they do not like.

Score Point 1

The student attempts to address many issues. There is little focus or development.

2 2 2 Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page. 2 2 2

~~What~~ what ~~the~~ being mature means. To me at least. I think that being mature is begining to grow up in your teen years. And how maturity can/is passed down through your parents. And how they teach you how to be mature. Example - Arguing with your brother or sister and win your parents. You are going through maturity right there. When you find out how to get along with some one? Well another part of maturity is when it is time for you to get a job. And all them responsibilities are placed on you when you have a job. Jobs have lots of responsibilities, and when you have one that's mature. And when you do a good ~~job~~ ^{work} at your job, that's pretty mature & respectful. Oh, when kids are growing up to quickly. Is ~~when~~ like in Hollywood, when young actors maybe have to grow up to quickly and they ~~are~~ never learn how to be that mature? Maybe. But they will be a little but not much. Look at how the ~~of~~ adult stars act in Hollywood. When they go out or date and even get married they really don't know how to treat each other. That's how you see it ~~is~~ on T.V. ~~is~~ like when they get

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married they end up ~~be~~ getting divorced.
That's a little example of how to be mature.
Oh, There's some cases where the child
is ~~way~~ way to smart for his age.
Like he has a huge I.Q. #. And
he has to go up a lot of grades just
so the kid can learn. He's growing up
to fast. And he/^{they} might not learn how
to be mature in certain ways.

Score Point 1

This writer demonstrates little control over voice and content. Ideas are presented as generalizations. The student attempts to support the idea that maturity is passed down from parents by arguing, but is not successful. The response loses focus shortly thereafter.

2 2 2

Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

2 2 2

My life now from when I was when I was a child is totally different. When I was a child I had no responsibilities or nothing to worry about. I just hung out all day with my friends and did things that little kids do. And as I got older I started getting into trouble just doing stupid little immature things that kids do.

Now that I'm older I don't really have time to do much or anything like hang out. I work and go to school. As soon as school gets out I have to go to work until like 11:00. I also have other responsibilities such as having to pay my own bills now - buy my own stuff. I ever pay a little rent every week.

Score Point 1

The student focuses on how he is different now than when he was young. The ideas presented have no examples for support. The vocabulary is elementary and the grammar sometimes confusing.

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Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

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I don't think people my age don't act very mature. When I was a child I think 17 and 18 year old people acted mature. I think mature means is to responsibilities and act your age. I don't think I am very mature now because my parents, brothers and sister didn't act mature, so I acted like them. I was always forced to grow up. My parents always talked about me getting a job, get my own house. I didn't want to do that it didn't sound like fun. I just wanted to stay little kid. I think that is why I'm not mature.

I think I acted more mature two, three years ago. Because just started to go next door and play. They have two kids one is 18 the other is 15. They don't act mature for nothing. They are bigger than me. We started to wrestle in their yard and I got to know them pretty well. So I started acting like them, so I don't act as mature as I used to.

People these days don't act mature. One reason is wrestling on T.V. Everyone acts it out and thinks it is real. I watch wrestling every time it is on. My Mom and Dad don't like it when I watch it. I don't act mature after I watch it because I start to do all the moves on everyone.

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Score Point 2

This low 2 response contains limited development of ideas and lacks transitions between ideas. The writer does, however, remain focused.

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Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

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All through life you become more and more mature. There are many things that I have faced and have yet to face. My grandpa does not like to screw around, he's always doing something. When he asks to have something done it better be done. My grandma was the kind of person who let people have fun, so when she died a lot of things changed.

I had to quit acting like a kid, my grandpa was always nervous around little kids, and besides he needed help doing things now. I helped him fix his shed and his garage that had not been fixed yet since he moved back from Fennville. I also talked to him and kept his mind moving by asking about his war years.

I drove in the line of cars that takes my grandma to her final resting place after the funeral. I had to, my grandpa was riding with his kids, my mom included, her boy friend's car was full with my brother and my two cousins both of my parents cars were full, there was only me and Uncle left. I drove because I needed the experience.

A week after my grandma died I started working at Burger King, this was a huge step from delivering papers. I have to deal with people every day now, because I'm a cashier. It's fun, especially when you get paid, but it can be tiring or the people can get mad and ask you to do things that only a manager can do. My job gives me allot of stress, so when I go home I like to relax in front

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of the television or in bed, with my eyes shut.
I needed something of my own. I didn't want a car, yet,
I needed something that I could learn with. I bought a computer.
The greatest thing in the world to have and it was about \$100.
All this power at my finger tips, was one more thing, the internet.
I had a computer with a modem, but the phone line wasn't
working correctly. I had a new line put in and have to
pay a phone bill and an internet bill every month. It takes
a lot of responsibility and a job, especially since I filled
up my first hard drive within a month after getting my com-
puter.

This year covers a bunch of stuff and nothing is shown
maturity too. Only a couple of years until college and that's
another big step. I should be able to handle it. I look at
all the things that has happened in the last eight months
and think what could happen next.

Score Point 2

The response attempts to cover multiple issues without success. There is little discernable organization which confuses the reader.

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Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

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In our society, Maturity is acceptance to the real world because you have proven to be a responsible, hardworking, and sometimes caring person. Maturity is something that comes to you when you are ready for it. It slowly creeps up like the change of seasons from fall to winter, almost unexpectedly. In the last year I think maturity has done its fair share of creeping upon me. It has probably half way taken me over.

As a child a person experiences many things. These things can range from family to school to friends and they all have an impact on the way that individual turns out. From the family point of view, the responsibility part of maturity, as well as every other aspect to maturity, starts off in the home. A child is very impressionable and absorbs his/her habits from the environment around them. Therefore if the child was neglected or abused, or perhaps just exposed to an immature parent, this child will probably end up on the wrong end of maturity. This child may have an irresponsible friend or classmate that largely influences them, which also could have a very negative effect.

Everyone is expected to do what they're told. If they don't they are immediately labeled outcast. If a person was led in the wrong direction as a youth they should have help to find the right

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direction as an older person. There are too many misguided immature people that the style of the world is being cramped and disfigured. Unfortunately, the world is like cold hard steel, not very malleable.

Thankfully, I was very lucky growing up, I have two very mature parents and a loving family. I also have many friends that help me through the barrier that blocks from adulthood that only a few people break through. I am not totally ready to become a mature person, so therefore I still have a little too much fun, but I have a job and am a very trustworthy person so it all balances out. When I want the barrier to come down it will.

The world is a body and maturity is the backbone, structuring society and keeping it in working order. Hopefully this body will never get paralyzed by a lack of family and overall american values, because I dont think theres a wheelchair big enough for humanity. I'm doing my part as a peice of the spine. Maturity has probably halfway taken me over, and when I'm ready it will completely.

Score Point 2

There are some nice similes and metaphors in this high 2 response, but there is also some very awkward phrasing. It is not adequately developed and the lack of transitions between ideas causes the reader some confusion.

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Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

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To be mature is never reached at the same period of time in everyone's life. It's not something you're born with, nor is it something you can buy. Maturity is an achieved status that fully opens your mind to better yourself and those around you. There are three major personality traits that are the basic points of being mature; Reliability, Leadership and Caring.

Reliability is the first step in being mature. You have to be able to be counted on when someone needs you. If a task is assigned to you, other people need to have the assurance that no matter what, the task will be done.

Leadership is the second step to becoming a mature person. To be a leader, many qualities are added with that name. To be a leader, you must be trustworthy and respectful of those around you. You must want to be careful of those you try to persuade to do things other than the right thing. Whether you're good or bad, you will always have people who look up to you and who want to be just like you.

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so never be an example of what not to be.

Last but not least, you must be a thinker to be mature. Using your brain is like a parachute. If it never opens, it's no good. To be mature you have to be able to make moral + rational decisions on your own.

In every situation, someone is not going to be there to help you make the right choice.

Whether it be for you, your family, friends, etc.

So you have to be able to think on your own to not only develop your brain but your personality as well!

These three steps all tie in with the word Responsibility. The main stepping stone and foundation to being becoming a mature person.

Responsibility ties into all aspects of your life. School, home, church, the community, etc.

All of these areas require mature people in order to have a smooth operation. If with diligence and patience you want to attribute such characteristics, as I've mentioned to your personality, guaranteed you will become a mature person.

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Score Point 2

The student presents three ideas in the introduction; however, the development of these ideas is superficial. Concrete examples are needed for a higher score.

2 2 2 Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page. 2 2 2

Have you ever had your parents leave town and say to you, "we trust you, please don't blow-up the house?" If you did, you know one aspect of what it takes to be mature. Maturity is achieved when a person shows they are responsible, trust-worthy, and caring.

I believe I have reached the aspect of responsibility when I received my driver's license. The 1st year with it, I was involved in a minor car accident. The lady who hit me was hysterical. I calmed her down and told the police officer what happened. I did not entirely blame everything on the lady. I took responsibility. I did what I needed to do. I did not "freak-out" and become hysterical like the lady did.

Everybody can remember back in elementary school when their friend approached them and said, "I have a big secret, promise not to tell anyone?" The kids who went and told everybody did not show maturity. The people who kept quiet, however, were on their way to achieving maturity. Being trust-worthy is very important to becoming mature. People need to be reassured that they can confide with you. That they know whatever they leave with you is in good hands. Throwing a wild party when your parents leave town is not a good way to show

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that you are capable of being trusted.

Being trust-worthy also goes hand-in-hand to being caring. A mature person is someone people can talk to about their problems, without having to worry about other people knowing. Sometimes, a mature person is just a good listener.

I remember when one of my friend's parents were getting a divorce. He pretended as if nothing was wrong. Eventually, he opened up to me and told me how much pain he had.

Instead of laughing about his problems, or telling everybody at school what a big cry-baby he was, I just listened to him. When he was finished talking, I told him that his pain would eventually go away and that it was transient. I also told him that I'd always be there for him. This was another way I showed my maturity.

There are many other things a mature person does, such as, making the right decisions, and not rubbing it in when they are right. But, these are not as important as being responsible, trust-worthy, and caring. Even though being able to make the right-decisions is important, even a mature person makes a wrong one every once and a while. A mature person, however, deals with their mistake in a calm and responsible way.

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I believe that I have achieved maturity, because I have proved to myself and others that I am responsible, trust-worthy, and caring.

Score Point 3

This student presents several situations in which maturity is demonstrated, but does not successfully tie them together. A better command of transitions would add to the cohesion of his/her ideas in this low 3 response.

2 2 2 Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page. 2 2 2

A young girl sits swinging in a tree swing in a big country yard on a beautiful summer day. Her mind filled with nothing but what's for lunch and what to do in the mean time. But soon this girl will not be able to remember what it was like to be so carefree; she will have many decisions to make about her life and how to conduct herself. This little girl will grow-up and become mature.

Many people say that maturity comes with age, but really maturity comes with experience. Sometimes people are faced with tragedy and hardtimes in their lives.

Often times that life makes them grow-up faster; an example of this are children who's parents have died. The children learn to depend on themselves and as a result become more mature. Sometimes children growing-up in innercity communities are faced with drugs, death, and money problems. These hard times show them the harsh facts about the real world. As a result of these problems the children became mature at a much faster rate.

On the opposite side, there are many people who are very sheltered throughout

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their entire childhood and even into their adulthood. Fortunately I am one of these people. We are lucky enough to have friends and family who care about us. We have been given everything we need for life and almost everything we ever want in life. But we are faced with hard issues such as peer pressure with drugs and sex, occasional death of a close friend or relative, and the violence on television with children killing classmates. Fortunately or unfortunately we are the naive people walking around with closed minds and open hearts, ready for someone to take advantage of us. Only then are we exposed to the truth and open to the fact that the world isn't as safe as we thought it was. Only then are we able to begin to start our path to maturity.

In conclusion maturity is not something you get on your 21th birthday, it isn't a door prize at your graduation party, and it isn't something you and your friends decide to get on a free weekend. Maturity means being responsible for your actions and able to conduct yourself with the appropriate manner for the situation. Being mature happens when you are faced with life-changing decisions and are able to say you are

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a better person for experiencing that situation in your life.

Score Point 3

This is an adequate essay focusing on how experiences shape maturity. The introduction and conclusion are well written using imagery. The body lacks development keeping this response to a score point 3.

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Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

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Today's society puts many pressures on their children. At times, kids are unfairly expected to act at a maturity level which does not fit their age.

As young children, we are encouraged to grow up faster and to continuously reach beyond an expected ability level. From birth, parents wait for their child to speak the first word, take the first step, and to taste the first bite of solid food. Parents brag to one another about how far ahead their child is. It becomes a contest as to who is the smartest and the most advanced.

Even as children get older, these standards are kept. By kindergarten, some parents have already taught their children to read and write, while others around them barely know their alphabet.

These expectations of maturity reach beyond academics. In other areas, such as sports and family responsibilities, pressure is put on our youth to behave in a manner that far exceeds their years. The responsibility of watching siblings or making dinner often falls on the shoulder's of a 10 year old. Suddenly the picture of a care-free

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youth has disappeared. It's been replaced by over-worked and over-stressed very young adults.

This cycle is soon to take an ironic turn, however. As kids reach their teenage years, more restrictions are placed upon them. Instead of being treated as the young adults they now truly are, parents as well as society, try to keep them as children.

While earlier generations were being married and having children of their own at 14, 15, and 16, today's youth struggles for the privileges to have extended interaction with members of the opposite sex. School counselors put the pressure on to make decisions about life after high school, yet when we do make up our minds, our ideas are often laughed at. Authorities say we don't know enough about life, or the "real world" to know what we really want.

The strange part of this is that all of these notions about us not being able to handle real life, are coming at a time point in history when we do have to deal with adult issues so young. Seven year olds are joining gangs, and 10 year olds are being offered drugs. Violence in our

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Schools is at an all time high. So while select few are making wrong decisions at this time, the rest of the children are learning maturity to deal with hard issue).

Since the youth of this time have had to face the adult world so early, doesn't it follow that they would know how to handle it better than earlier generations? Why are we being forced to have only the responsibilities of an adult, and none of the privileges?

So as society as a whole, we need to step back and take a look at what we're doing. Is this really how we want to raise our children?

Score Point 4

The student presents an original outlook on parents' expectations as one grows older in an organized essay. The voice and writing ability demonstrated compensate for the sometimes general examples given.

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Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

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My family has always had high expectations for me. Good grades were never enough, I had to get straight A's. I could never just be part of a group or part of a project, I had to lead it. At home, I had to set the example for my siblings, even the older one. Too much was expected of me and they never figured it out even after I stopped trying to live up to their standards for me.

In grade school, it wasn't hard to keep all A's on my report card. Go there in the morning, pay attention, be nice at recess, do the classwork and then school was out and you went home to play. Eventually, the General Science class of then gave way to Physics and Physiology classes while Arithmetic was replaced by Calculus. I never had time for the four to six hours of homework I was getting, and my grades suffered from it. The first set of expectations was shattered.

My parents had always planned on me being some kind of leader. Student Body President, Class President, Editor of the Yearbook, National Honor Society President. These were all

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titles I was expected to hold. Now, I personally couldn't care less about who runs what organization. I never became involved in school politics, journalism is something I skipped out on, and NHS is nothing but a joke in this school. As I avoid all of the leadership positions my parents could have possibly thought I might take, they pinned me down on the one job I would want; the captaincy of our school's Academic Team. Next year, I will become only the second four year varsity team member in the history of the Academic Team, and should I not be the captain of the team as well my parents will be furious.

Even at home, I can't escape inflated expectations that my parents force upon me. As my siblings are given permission to do anything they please, I am slapped with rules and restrictions that are supposed to help me be an example for the others. I know not how me being given a 2 AM curfew on prom night will help my step-sister learn anything while she has no curfew for the same event.

My family's expectations of me are

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far too high. I cannot carry the grades they want me to carry, lead most of the groups they want me to lead, or set the example they want me to set at home. I can't do any~~s~~ of that without help from them, which is something I don't have anymore.

Score Point 4

The writer describes adult expectations that have been placed on him/her. The response is focused, organized, and well developed. The sentence structure is varied and mature, and the writer demonstrates authentic voice.

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Begin writing **SESSION 2** on this page.

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I think that being mature comes from experiences. I feel I am more mature than most teenagers, because of a single experience that changed my life completely the instant I found out. When I was half way through my freshman year in High School, my parents, my sister, my brother, and I all sat down at the kitchen table. I remember thinking in my head that one of us did something wrong and we were all going to get in trouble for it. My dad started off by saying "Kids this is a serious matter. Something is wrong and we need to talk about it." I instantly felt my heart start to pound faster in my chest. Then my mother broke in with tears in her eyes, saying "I found a lump on my breast, and today the doctor confirmed it is cancer." I think I was a little shocked at first because it didn't seem real or even possible. I knew then how immature and

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maine I had been thinking that it couldn't possibly happen to my family. I think being the youngest child of three made it hard for me to actually fully understand what was happening. It was only a few weeks before Christmas and my mom was set to have surgery on December 23. She was told she would then go through six weeks of radiation, and then chemotherapy.

We all sat in the waiting room, nervous and anxious that my mom was fifteen minutes late coming out of her surgery. I remember that I kept looking at the clock and each second seemed like a minute. I thought to myself "relax, a lot of times surgeries run a little over." Finally, an hour later a doctor came through the door to tell us that the surgery was a bit more complicated than he thought it would be, but he got all the cancer. He told us she was fine, and

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that we would be able to see her soon in recovery. I was very relieved but it was only the beginning.

A couple of weeks after the surgery, my mom had a drain sewed into her side, so she was a little slow moving around. I waited on her hand and foot. She then began her radiation shortly after. Her doctor said it went so well, she didn't have to go through chemotherapy. We were all relieved when we heard that. My mother has now been in remission for a year. Since then we have become much closer, because we both realized how precious life is, and you never know when it will end. It took a very scary situation like this for me to realize what mature is. I think I had to mature very quickly when this happened for me to understand and accept the situation. I think to be mature you see the world from a whole new

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perspective you are no longer looking at the world from the inside looking out. You are looking inside the world from the exterior. I became very selfish and giving because I realized the world does not revolve around me. I know this now, and I think you have to be mature to see that it is about everyone else you love and care for.

Score Point 4

The student focuses on his/her mother's illness and its effect on the student's life. The response is organized with details. Word choice and voice give character to the story. The student adds insight to his/her growth giving closure to the story.